

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



**REPRESENTATIVE JASON ROJAS
HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER**

Joint Committee of Judiciary
Public Hearing Testimony
In favor of House Bill 6321

Chairs Stafstrom and Winfield, Ranking Members Fishbein and Kissel, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **H.B. 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act.**

For far too long, Connecticut has not recognized the many types of families in Connecticut. Our laws as written have failed to fully protect the children of LGBTQ+ parents and other nonbiological parents. A parent who does not give birth to a child is required to go through a lengthy process to initiate a second parent adoption, costing the family both significant time and money.

H.B. 6321 hits home for many of our Connecticut residents. I first heard of this issue through my constituents. When a same sex female couple made the intimate decision to transfer a fertilized egg from one spouse to the other to be carried to term, only one biological partner was allowed to be named on the birth certificate. This led to my constituents petitioning to add both names to the birth certificate. If this situation were a heterosexual unmarried couple, both individuals' names would be on a birth certificate. It is my hope we can seek equal rights for all families. While this may be the story of my constituents, it can also be the story of yours.

This proposal is an important step to adopt and implement the Connecticut Parentage Act. This legislation would clarify who is a parent and how to establish parentage. It is critical for children to access the security of legal parentage regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or marital status of the parents. The Connecticut Parentage Act would also reduce the financial burdens required to establish parentage. Same sex couples carry the burden of additional costs upwards of \$3,000 to establish such parental status.

Through the support of this committee's actions in advancing H.B. 6321, this legislation would advance equality for LGBTQ families by having the same parentage protections accessed by "traditional" families currently defined by Connecticut statutes. It would protect children born through assisted reproduction, provide clear standards for establishing parentage through surrogacy, and offer a standard for courts to resolve competing claims of parentage. This bill would codify key protections for children, such as marital presumption of parentage, and does so in a way that complies with constitutional mandates. Likewise, this is a means to ensure greater efficiency and consistency in the courts and reduces unnecessary litigation.

I urge favorable consideration in H.B. 6321. Thank you.